POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-3-

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POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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NATURAL SETTING

Pocahontas County owes its early development largel; to its
position on the boundary of Virginia. Pioneering explorers discovered
its rich valleys on their first short trips beyond the Alleghen; barrier. Later, it became an important gateway for settlers from the
eastern communities who pushed into the free lands of the Chio country.
The county, in its geographical placement and contour, is quite similar
to West Virginia, itself. Trim the northern panhandle region from a
map of state and the remainder will be surprisingly like a map of
Pocahontas. Like the state, the county extends much farther north,
south, east, and west than its size would indicate. From 37 degrees,
40 minutes north latitude at its southermost point it stretches to
38 degrees 45 minutes north latitude. Similarly it reaches from 79
degrees, 35 minutes to 80 degrees, 24 minutes west longitude.

Its more than 900 square miles of land make Pocahontas the third county of the state in size. It was formed from parts of Bath, Pendleich, and Randolph counties and was originally thought to contain 620 square miles. Boundaries, as determined by the Virginia legislature in 1021, were as follows:

Peginning at the line of Greenbrier County on top of the Allepheny Countain Thence with the said line to the head of Spice Run;
though with the said line to the end of the Droop Mountain, thence with
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the line of Path and Randolph, thence with the line dividing Randolph
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partitionse, crosses said mountain, thence a straight line to where the line of Pendleton county intersects the line of Bath and Randolph Counties on top of the mountain between Cheat and Greenbrier Rivers, thence with the top of said mountain to where the road leading from the start to Randolph Court house crosses it, thence a straight line to the top of the Allegheny Mountain opposite the head of the east form the Greenbrier River, thence with the top of the said mountain to the top of the Pendleton line, thence with the top of the said mountain to the beginning."

The straight line from the Slavens road to the mountain opposite the head of Bast Fork of Greenbrier caused much confusion. As county lines were then, a corridor was formed cutting off a part of Pendleton from the main body of the county. Also, a "no man's land" was created edjacent to Randolph. After considerable dispute the houndaries were moved to the present location. Pocahontas thus gained a vast area of rich timber land. Burner, May, Gertrude and Wildell are lumber towns which egrang up in this formerly disputed territory. About ten miles of the Vestern Maryland Railroad together with attending operations is in the area. After years later the southern border was changed slightly, E.T. E. the county its present area of 602,660 acres. As in the case - First land where rough terrain is general, boundaries wraveletermined servery by natural barriers, streams, and divisions of water shed. The unfamiliarity of meny on worly surveyor with the wild country in with a torked forced him to rely whom prominent landmarks for his be lags. Homewer, mines political and notial grouping were also inforester greatly by to openiment attention it appears trained that " se season is far more just than the arbitrary laying-off of orderly ". o . f too s... a And convillag.



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CHAPTER THREE 1-NATURAL SETTING (PocshontasCounty)
Beginning August 26th 1940

Roecoe W. Brown.

Part 1.

Sec A. Pocchontae County is situated on the essternaide of the State somewhat below the center of West Virginia, is adjoining the State of Virginia in the east, the meanders of the Alleghany mountains, and the watershed thereof which is the pline between Virginia and West Virginia, forms the castern boundry line of Pocchontas County except the north end of the County which is bounded on the east by Pendleton County of West Virginia.

Pocahontes County is bounded on the north and north-west by Wabster and Randolph Counties, on the north-east by Pendleton County, on the east by Highland and Bath Counties of the State of Virginia, and on the south-west by Greenbrier County

The Geographal position of Pocahontas County, or as it is oriented in the State of West Virginia, in reference to its position of Latitude and Longitudinal departure; at the High-School Buildingust Greenbank taken as a point as mass as can be defined, is 38 degrees, 25 minutes, and 33 seconds of North Latitude, and 19 degrees, 49 minutes, and 30 seconds of Longitude from Greenwich.

The Geographal of Marlinton (the County seat of Pocahontas County) is approximately as taken from the Topographical Maps made by U.S. Engineers for the Geological Surveys, is 38 degrees and 13 minutes of North Latitude, and 80 degrees and 6 minutes of Longitude.

In reference to the Magnetic declination, or the delination of the magnetic compass needle', from the true North Meridian appears to be 4 degrees and 30 minutes of Test Declination, with an annual change of 3 minutes per year.

(All the U.S. Coverment surveys are based on the True North Meridian , all the local and private lands are surveyed by the Magnetic Meridian.)

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The County is irregular in outline, and has no definite form, Its greatest maximum length is nearly 60 miles running in a northeast-southwest direction and its greatest width in a northwest and southeast direction is approximately 19 miles narrowing to about 12miles toward the northern end.

The present area of Pocahontas County, as determined with planimeter from the topographic sheets of the United State Geological Survey as follows:

Greenbank District ---- 319.24 Square Miles.

Hartersville District---- 193.64 Square Miles.

Edrar District---- 237.05 Square Miles.

Little Levels District--- 192,68 Square Miles.

Total----- 942.61 Square Miles . or about 602.880 more or less

Pechbutias County was formed by an act of the Virginia Legikature in Dec-

It was formed from parts of Bath, Pendleton, and Randolph Counties, and that time was supposed to contain 820 square miles.

The boundry lines of Pocahontas County as origionally established by the Targicis Legislature in December 1821 are as follows:

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-between Cheat and Greenbrier Rivers, thence with the top of said mountain to where the read leading from Slavens to Raddolph Court house crosses it, thence a staight line to the top of the Alleghany Mountain opposite the head of the east fork of the Greenbrier River, thence with the top of the eaid mountain to the pendleton line, thence with the top of the said mountain to the beginning.

It appears that the establishment of the straight line from the point in the road leading from Slaven, e to the Randolph County Court house to the top of the Raleghany Mountain opposite the head of the East Fork of the Greenbrier River in later years, led to much misunderstanding, end controversy between the Counties from Harrison County Pocahontas and Randolph. Randolph County was formed by an Act of the Wirginia Assembly in October 1786, and did, nt include the head waters of the west Fork of the Greenbrier River; and it appeared that the said line would would cut a part of Pendleton in two parts not joining. Pendleton County line as established by the Wirginia Assembly in December 1787, only called for the top of the Alleghany and along the same, and the east side of the Greenbrier waters to the south-west fountain of the South Branch, this point was the corner of Augusta County at that time and later formed the setting of the Bath County line as formed from Augusta County in 1791

After the formation of Pocahontas County in 1821, the greater portion of the area drained by the waters of the West Fork of the Greenbrier River was not completely included in the County lines above mentioned and therefore appeared to the "No Mans Land" and was all due to the fact that the originnal calls show a misurderstanding on the part of the draftsman of the bill, as to the topographical situation of the country.

It was agreed to can't understood by the Officia's of Pocahontan and Randelph Counties that a definite line must be ostablished between the two Counties at this particular point of controversy.

The service of B.M.Yeager a qualified land eurveyor was secured to survey and establish a line as directed by a board of commissioners; The survey notes of B.M.Yeager bearing date of May 22nd 1876 purports the fact that he began at the top of Back Alleghany, on Shavere Mountain, where the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike road crosses the top of said Mountain; (This point had been the most sebera point or corner of Pocahontas County for a period of 55 years). Thence with the top of said montain on the divide between the waters of the Grenbrier River, and the waters of the Shavere Fork of Cheat River, and following the water shed of the Greenbrier waters to a point onthe top of the Alleghany Mountain on the Pendluto County line.

The whole distance of the new line between Randolph and Pocahontas County

10 about 27 miles. (The bearings and distanc, s of the courses are emitted at this
place)

The following is the Commissioners report of the line, and the same is a matter of record in the County Clarks Office of Pocahontas County West Va. -The Deed Book No 15 at Page 188

We Sherman H. Clark , William O. Overholt, and John C. Price Commissioners at the part of Pocahonias County and,

E.W.Crasford, Micholas Marstiller, and S.D. Strader Commissioners, on letal: of .EanSclph County, and B. W. Byrne who was dully chose Umpire by said Commissioners, who were appointed according to law, to ascertain and fix that just of the County line between the said Counties about which there has been a controvers, between said Counties. Heat in the vicinity of said disputed line on the 17th day of Enguet 1850. and first dully sworn; on hearing evidence and asguments of scenario. The said Sheman H. Clark, William O. Overholt and left, brice, and i.m.byrne. a majority of said board of Commissioners, secertain additional time is commissioners, secertain additional time is commissioners, as feliane, as shown in the plat accompaning this report

- to wit beginning on the top of Back Alleghany, on Shavere Mountain, where the Staunton add Parkersburg Turnpike road crosses the top of said Mountain and running thence with the top of said Mountain on the divide, between the waters of Greenbrier River and the waters of Shavers Fork of Cheat River as follows.

(the first call of the line) S.33 E. 58 poles . _____ (The bearings and distances of the courses of the line are ommitted at this place, but can furnish that if necessary,) (The last call or line) N. 37 E. 70 poles to a Hemlock, there is necessary and 2 Beeches on the top of Alleghany Mountain. where the said dividing ridge intersects the said Alleghany Mountain.

The Commissioners on the part of Randolph County dissenting.

Commissioners on the part of Pocahontas County. S.H. Clark.

Who Overholt

John C. Price

B. W. Byrne. Umpire.

Possibonias County Clerke Office .

August 24th 1882

The foregoing plat and report of the County line between the Pocahontae and - hamisly's Counties was presented in the Office and admitted to record.

TEST JOHN J. BEARD CLERK.

The cetablishment of the disputed line by the Commissioners, which appears to have been controlled by the deciding vote of the Umpire added much valuation to the Greenbank District of Pocahohtas County; The Valuation of many thousand acres of valuable timber fell to Pocahontas County, and many years afterward many different Band Saw mills and Lüber Towns were established within the disputed area. The Lumber Towns-Burner, May, Gertrude, and Wildell, and other lumber operations on the Western Maryland R silroad were in the area that was ceded to Pocahontas County. These were all large Lumber towns with Churches and Schools, and had all the modern conveniencies, that went to make up a desirable place for the employees, and their families to live, while the mills were in speration. The duration of the mills that operated on the West Fork of the Greenbrier River was from 1900 to about 1920.

About 10 miles of the Western Maryland Railroad is within this disputed t area, and miding that amount of valuation of the rolling stock to Pocahontae. County.

In the early days of Pocahontas County Agriculture was the chief pureuit of the early settlers. Because trevel was difficult and transportation facilities were measur, the settlers were compelled to be self- supporting or self- sustaining

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Movement, the trade relations between Bosehontee County end the bordering
County of Virginia are subject to the State lews of each State, end each edjoining
Descring County, in trade relations, observe the civil lews of their neighbor States.

At the present time Pocchenta & County, formes a part of en economical whole, and is extremically related to all its adjoining Counties, especially in that part of economical that pertain to and treats of that portion of human activity which is extremed with earning a living and trade relations.

Roacos W. Brown.

Fart 1)

The Mountains that divide the waters of the Greenbrier river and the waters of the Deer creek and the Brush run is known as the Little Mountain, which was fermerly called Gallaghera Ridge in honor of Charles Gallagher whos patent of 32,000 acres covered the greater part of the ridge, It was later called Brush ridge after a man by the name of "Brush" an assignee of Charles Gallagher and is where we get the name of "Brush RUn".

The Little Mountain extends from the County road at Cass, at the junction of the Deer Creek and the Greenbrier river, to a point on or near the Steunton and Parkerburg Pike between the Kelly Spring, which is the head of Prush run and at a place known as the "Slab Camp" and the Spring on the Lunsfor d place new owned by James Wilfong, which is the head of Deer Creek.; At this point it connects with the Frank Mountain, and forms a spur of the main Allegheny - Mountain and has an elevation of 3695 feet.

The Frenk Mountain and the Buffalo Ridge unite at this point known as the Top Allegheny " and at an elevation of 4 199 feet (This point is also known as the Top Allegheny Battle Field).

The Fuffalo Ridge divides the waters of the Morth Fork of Deer Creek and Lear Creek proper and has an elevation of 4 000 feet.

Lying between the Allegheny Mountains and the Back Allegheny Mountain are a named of ranges of considerable prominence. Beaverlick Mountain enters from Greentrier County with its extension in Brushy Mountain, North of which are brown Fountain, Michael Mountain and other small ranges which terminate, in a site level valley north of Greentenk This cries (Geologically speaking) of respectables are large fold composed of several small folds the back bone of whith the Smite Fedine Quartitie, it rises in a cliff to 3,657, feet

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It was agreed to dand understood by the Officia's of Pocahontan and Randolph Counties that a definite line must be outablished between the two Counties at this particular point of controversy.

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The whole distance of the new line between Randolph and Pocahontas County
is about 27 miles. (The bearings and distances of the courses are omitted atthis
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The following is the Commissioners report of the line, and the same is a matter of record in the County Clerks Office of Pocahontas County West Va.

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To Sherman H. Clerk , William O. Overholt, and John C. Price Commissionere at the part of Pocahonias County and,

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Wm Overholt

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Feeshentss County Clorke Office .

Augue: 24th 1882

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However, the trade relations between Encahontas County and the bordering
Counties of Virginia are subject to the State lews of each State, and each edjoining
bestering County, in trade relations, observe the civil laws of their neighbor States.

At the present time Pocahonta s County, formes a part of an economical whole, and is economically related to all its adjoining Counties, especially in that part of economical pertain to and treats of that portion of human activity which is seedes such earning a living, and trado relations.

Oct 7th- 1940

Roocoe W. Brown.

Fart 1)

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The Little Mountain extends from from the County road et Cass, at the junction of the Doer Creek and the Greenbrier river, to a point on or near the Staunton and Parkerburg Pike between the Kelly Spring, which is the head of Brush run and at a place known as the "Slab Camp" and the Spring on the Lunsfor de place now owned by James Wilfong, which is the head of Deer Creek.; At this point it connects with the Frank Mountain, and forms a spur of the main Allogheny - Meuntain and has an elevation of 3695 feet.

The Frank Mountain and the Buffalo Ridge unite at this point known as the Top Allegheny " and at an elevation of 4 199 feet (This point is also known as the Top Allegheny Battle Field).

The Puffelo Ridge divides the waters of the North Fork of Deer Greek and beer Creek proper and has an elevation of 4 000 feet.

Lying between the Allegheny Mountains and the Back Alleghery Mountain are a senter of ranges of considerable prominence. Beaverlick Mountain enters from Greenbrier County with its extension in Brushy Mountain, North of which are brown Pountain, Michael Mountain and other small ranges which terminate, in a wife lasel velley north of Grandbank This erias (Goalogically appaking) of ranges askes are large fold compound of reveral small folds the back bone of white two Daile Fedira quartists, it rices in a cliff to 3,657, feat

Post Rept of the Graphteter river lies a spring of even created short ranges regarded by Cala of greater or less depths.

The County is irregular in outline, and bas no definite form, Ito greatest saximum length is nearly 60 miles running in a northeast-southwest direction and ite greatest width in a northwest and southeast direction is approximately niles narrowing to about 12miles toward the northern end.

The present area of Pocahontes County, as datarmined with planimeter from the topographic shaets of the United State Ceological Survey as follows:

Greenbank District ---- 319.24 Square Miles.

Hartersville District---- 193.64 Squars Milas.

Edray District---- 237.05 Square Milas.

Little Levels District --- 192, 68 Squera Milea.

Total----- .942.61 Square Milae . or about 602.880 mora or lass

Pochbattes County was formed by en ect of the Virginia Lagikatura in Dec-

It was formed from parts of Bath, Pendlaton, and Rendolph Counties, and that time was supposed to contain 820 equara miles.

The boundry lines of Pocahontas County as origionally established by tha Teginia Legislature in December 1821 are as follows:

Enginning at the line of Groanbriar County on top of the Allegheny Mountain

Thence with the said line to the head of Spica Run, thance with the said line to the
est of the Droop Bountain, thence with eadd line to Fryere Knob, thence with eadd line
is where it intersects the line of Bath and Randolph, thence with the line dividing
isotilet and Greenbrier Counties, to the mountain opposite, Banneck Shoal Run with

Fillians Riser, thence a straight line to the mouth of the dry fork of ElkRiver,

Thence a ctraight line to the top of the mountainbetween the head of the Valley River,
said the point leet efgracaid, where the road leading from Clever Lick to Randolph
Courtherne, crosses eath sountain, thence a straight line to where the line of
Pasiletes County intersects the line of Bath and Handolph Counties on top of the